



# **United States Embassy La Paz, Bolivia**

## **CONSULAR SECTION**

Avenida Arce 2780 between calles Campos and Cordero

Webpage: <http://lapaz.usembassy.gov>

Email: [consularlapaz@state.gov](mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov)

### **TREATY TRADER AND TREATY INVESTOR VISAS E-1/E-2**

Section 101(a)(15)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act allows the issuance of nonimmigrant visas to nationals of any country with which the United States has a treaty for traders and investors who wish to enter the United States to engage in commercial interaction including the exchange of services, technology between the United States and the treaty country; or to develop and enhance the company's operations in which a substantial amount of capital has been invested or will be invested. The company's employees may be entitled to a Treaty Trader's visa if they are hired at a supervisor, managerial, or investors level. The applicant must be a national of the country that has the treaty with the United States.

#### **REQUIREMENTS: TREATY TRADER (E-1)**

- The applicant must be a national of the treaty country.
- The company, through which the applicant is entering the United States, must have the same nationality as the treaty country (Bolivia and the United States are treaty traders).
- The international trade should be "substantial" in the sense that there is a sizable and continuous volume of trade.
- The trade must be conducted mainly between the United States and the treaty country. More than 50% of the commercial interaction must take place between the United States and the treaty country.
- The term "trade" implies the international exchange of goods, services and technology, including international bank transactions, insurance, transportation, tourism, communications, data processing, advertising, accounting, engineering design, administrative consulting, technology transfer, and any other service that can be exchanged.
- The applicant must have a supervisory or executive position or have a highly specialized knowledge essential to the firm's operation. Non-skilled workers do not qualify for this type of visa, as they are available in the United States.

#### **REQUIREMENTS: TREATY INVESTOR (E-2)**

- The investor (either a real or corporate person) must possess the nationality of the treaty country. (Bolivia and the United States have a treaty).
- The investment must be substantial in a proportional sense to the total cost of the enterprise or the amount of the investment must be sufficient to ensure the treaty investor's financial commitment to the successful operation of the enterprise. The lower the cost of the business, the higher the percentage of investment is required, whereas, a highly expensive business would require a lower percentage of qualifying investment.
- The alien must not be investing in a marginal enterprise solely for the purpose of earning a living. The enterprise will be considered marginal if the investment will return only enough income to provide a living for the applicant and his family.
- The investment cannot be on real estate.
- The investor must have control over the investment of the enterprise and place funds or other capital assets at risk, in the commercial sense, in the hope of generating a financial return.
- Indebtedness, such as mortgage debt or commercial loans secured by the assets of the enterprise cannot count toward the investment, as there is no element of risk.
- The investor must reside in the United States to conduct the business.
- If the applicant is not the investor but an employee he should be assigned to an executive or supervisory position or possess skills essential to the firm's operations in the United States. Non-skilled workers do not qualify for this type of visa, as they are available in the United States.

**For required documentation and procedures see the reverse side of this page →**

## **Procedures**

E visas applicants do not to request a pre-arrange appoint for a visa interview. Instead such applicants can come to the U.S. Embassy in La Paz for their interview any day Monday through Thursday at 8:30 am. However, these applicants need to bring all other proper documentation to the visa interview:

### **Required general documentation:**

1. **Passport** valid for at least six months and in good condition
2. **Non-Immigrant Visa Application** Form DS-156. As the form is a sworn statement, all questions should be answered. A separate form must be filled out for every person traveling, including children. The Form is available [online](#), at [DHL](#), at the US Embassy in La Paz, and at the Consular Agencies in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba. Applicants are encouraged to complete and print out [Form DS-156](#) online. If using the online form all questions should be filled out before printing the form.
3. **Supplementary Non-Immigrant Visa Application** [Form DS-157](#) only for male applicants from 16 to 45 years of age (available [online](#), at [DHL](#), at the US Embassy in La Paz, and at the Consular Agencies in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba)
4. **Receipt for the \$100 visa application fee** (to be paid at any [BISA Bank office](#))
5. **One 5 x 5 cm. (2 x 2 inch) photograph** taken within the last six months. The photograph should be non-glossy, have a white background, and be of good quality. The photo must be facing forward and only the face should be visible. Both color and black and white photographs are accepted.

### **Additional Requirements for E Visas:**

1. **Non-Immigrant Treaty Trader/Investor Application** Form [156E](#)  
For information on additional supporting documents see page 4 of Form 156E.  
The Form is available [online](#), and at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz.

The spouse and minor children (unmarried and 21 years or younger) of the principle applicant, regardless of their nationality, are entitled to derivative status (in the same classification as the principal applicant) if accompanying or following to join the principle applicant. They must follow the same procedures and present the same documentation as detailed above, plus:

1. A photocopy of the principle applicant's passport and visa and
2. Marriage or birth certificate that proves relationship to principle applicant.

Spouses of E visa holders may seek authorization to work in the United States. Please contact the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for more information regarding employment of spouses of E visa holders.

**For suggestions on what you should bring to the interview, please click [here](#).**

**For answers to Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Non-Immigrant Visas, please click [here](#).**

**For answers to specific questions, please e-mail us at [consularlapaz@state.gov](mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov).**